

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A strut sliding bearing comprising:
an upper casing made of a synthetic resin and having an annular lower surface;
a lower casing which is made of a synthetic resin, is superposed on said upper casing so as to be rotatable about an axis of said upper casing, and has an annular upper surface opposed to the annular lower surface of said upper casing; and
an annular thrust sliding bearing piece which is made of a synthetic resin, and is interposed between the annular lower surface of the upper casing and the annular upper surface of the lower casing, said annular thrust sliding bearing piece having an upper surface which is in slidable contact with the annular lower surface of the upper casing, and a lower surface which is in slidable contact with the annular upper surface of the lower casing,
wherein said lower casing is configured in one-piece and has on a lower surface thereof a spring seat surface for a suspension coil spring,
said lower casing includes an annular base portion, an upper cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of an upper surface of the annular base portion and on which the annular upper surface of the lower casing is formed, said upper cylindrical portion having an outer peripheral cylindrical surface with a diameter that is smaller than a diameter of an outer peripheral annular surface of the annular base portion, and said upper cylindrical portion having an inner peripheral cylindrical surface with a diameter that is larger than an inner peripheral annular surface of the annular base portion, and a lower cylindrical

portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of a lower surface of the annular base portion, said lower cylindrical portion having an outer peripheral cylindrical surface with a diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the outer peripheral annular surface of the annular base portion, and said lower cylindrical portion having an inner peripheral cylindrical surface with a diameter that is larger than the diameter of the inner peripheral annular surface of the annular base portion, said lower surface of the annular base portion on a radially outer side of the lower cylindrical portion serving as the spring seat surface,

the annular base portion, the upper cylindrical portion, and the lower cylindrical portion including a plurality of thinning cavities, each of which opens externally at said lower surface of the annular base portion or a lower surface of the lower cylindrical portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The strut sliding bearing according to claim 1, further comprising: a tubular radial sliding bearing piece,

wherein said upper casing includes an upper annular portion on which the annular lower surface is formed and a cylindrical portion extended integrally downward from a radially ~~inner peripheral edge or~~ outer peripheral edge of the upper annular portion and having a cylindrical inner side surface, said lower casing having a cylindrical side surface opposed to said outer peripheral cylindrical surface of said lower cylindrical portion opposing the cylindrical inner side surface of said cylindrical portion of the upper casing, said radial sliding bearing piece being interposed between the cylindrical inner side surface of the cylindrical portion of said upper casing and said outer peripheral cylindrical surface of said lower cylindrical portion~~the cylindrical side surface of said lower casing.~~

3. (Previously Presented) The strut sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein said lower casing includes an inner peripheral-side cylindrical projecting portion integrally projecting upward from the annular upper surface on a radially inner peripheral side and an outer peripheral-side cylindrical projecting portion integrally projecting upward from the annular upper surface on a radially outer peripheral side, said thrust sliding bearing piece being disposed between the inner peripheral-side cylindrical projecting portion and the outer peripheral-side cylindrical projecting portion.

4. (Previously Presented) The strut sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein said upper casing includes an inner peripheral-side cylindrical suspended portion integrally suspended downward from a radially inner peripheral side of the annular lower surface and an outer peripheral-side cylindrical suspended portion integrally suspended downward from a radially outer peripheral side of the annular lower surface, said thrust sliding bearing piece being disposed between the inner peripheral-side cylindrical suspended portion and the outer peripheral-side cylindrical suspended portion.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The strut sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein said upper casing includes an upper annular portion on which the annular lower surface is formed and a cylindrical portion extended integrally downward from a radially outer peripheral edge of the upper annular portion, and the upper cylindrical portion being surrounded by the cylindrical portion of said upper casing.

7. (Currently Amended) The strut sliding bearing according to claim 6, further comprising: a tubular radial sliding bearing piece,

wherein said outer peripheral cylindrical surface of the upper cylindrical portion of said lower casing ~~has a cylindrical side surface opposed to~~ oppose a cylindrical inner side surface of the cylindrical portion of said upper casing, said radial sliding bearing piece being interposed between the cylindrical inner side surface of the cylindrical portion of said upper casing and the outer peripheral cylindrical side surface of the upper cylindrical portion of said lower casing.

8. (Previously Presented) The strut sliding bearing according to claim 2, wherein said radial sliding bearing piece is formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyacetal resin, polyamide resin, thermoplastic polyester resin, polyolefin resin, and fluororesin.

9. (Previously Presented) The strut sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein said upper casing is adapted to be resiliently fitted and secured to said lower casing.

10. (Previously Presented) The strut sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein said upper casing is formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyacetal resin, polyamide resin, thermoplastic polyester resin, polyolefin resin, polycarbonate resin, and fluororesin.

11. (Previously Presented) The strut sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein said thrust sliding bearing piece is formed of a synthetic resin including at least one of polyacetal resin, polyamide resin, thermoplastic polyester resin, polyolefin resin, and fluororesin.

12. (Previously Presented) The strut sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein said lower casing is formed of a reinforced synthetic resin comprising a synthetic resin, including at least one of polyacetal resin, polyamide resin, and polypropylene resin, and reinforcing fibers contained in the synthetic resin.

13. (Previously Presented) The strut sliding bearing according to claim 1 for use in a strut-type suspension in a four-wheeled motor vehicle.

14. (Previously Presented) A strut-type suspension structure in a four-wheeled motor vehicle, comprising: the strut sliding bearing according to claim 1 and a suspension coil spring seated at one end thereof on a spring seat surface of said lower casing.

15. (New) The strut sliding bearing of claim 1, wherein the lower cylindrical portion of the lower casing extends between upper and lower portions of the suspension coil spring when the suspension coil is engaged with the spring seat surface.

16. (New) The strut sliding bearing of claim 1, wherein the plurality of thinning cavities are included asymmetrically in the lower cylindrical portion.

17. (New) A strut sliding bearing comprising:

an upper casing made of a synthetic resin and having an annular lower surface;

a lower casing which is made of a synthetic resin, is superposed on said upper casing so as to be rotatable about an axis of said upper casing, and has an annular upper surface opposed to the annular lower surface of said upper casing; and

an annular thrust sliding bearing piece which is made of a synthetic resin, and is interposed between the annular lower surface of the upper casing and the annular upper surface of the lower casing, said annular thrust sliding bearing piece having an upper surface which is in slidable contact with the annular lower surface of the upper casing, and a lower surface which is in slidable contact with the annular upper surface of the lower casing,

wherein said lower casing is configured in one-piece and has on a lower surface thereof a spring seat surface for a suspension coil spring,

said lower casing includes an annular base portion, an upper cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of an upper surface of the annular base portion and on which the annular upper surface of the lower casing is formed, and a lower cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of a lower surface of the annular base portion, said lower surface of the annular base portion on a radially outer side of the lower cylindrical portion serving as the spring seat surface,

the annular base portion, the upper cylindrical portion, and the lower cylindrical portion including a plurality of thinning cavities, each of which opens externally at said lower surface of the annular base portion or a lower surface of the lower cylindrical portion,

wherein the plurality of thinning cavities are included asymmetrically in the lower cylindrical portion.

18. (New) The strut sliding bearing of claim 17, wherein the lower cylindrical portion of the lower casing extends between upper and lower portions of the suspension coil spring when the suspension coil is engaged with the spring seat surface.

19. (New) A strut sliding bearing comprising:

an upper casing made of a synthetic resin and having an annular lower surface;

a lower casing which is made of a synthetic resin, is superposed on said upper casing so as to be rotatable about an axis of said upper casing, and has an annular upper surface opposed to the annular lower surface of said upper casing; and

an annular thrust sliding bearing piece which is made of a synthetic resin, and is interposed between the annular lower surface of the upper casing and the annular upper surface of the lower casing, said annular thrust sliding bearing piece having an upper surface which is in slidable contact with the annular lower surface of the upper casing, and a lower surface which is in slidable contact with the annular upper surface of the lower casing,

wherein said lower casing is configured in one-piece and has on a lower surface thereof a spring seat surface for a suspension coil spring,

said lower casing includes an annular base portion, an upper cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of an upper surface of the annular base portion and on which the annular upper surface of the lower casing is formed, and a lower cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of a lower surface of the annular base portion, said lower surface of the annular base portion on a radially outer side of the lower cylindrical portion serving as the spring seat surface,

the annular base portion, the upper cylindrical portion, and the lower cylindrical portion including a plurality of thinning cavities, each of which opens externally at said lower surface of the annular base portion or a lower surface of the lower cylindrical portion,

wherein the lower cylindrical portion of the lower casing extends between upper and lower portions of the suspension coil spring when the suspension coil is engaged with the spring seat surface.

20. (New) The strut sliding bearing of claim 19, wherein the plurality of thinning cavities are included asymmetrically in the lower cylindrical portion.